

Welcome Back!



Dear Students, Parents & Guardians:

Welcome to Sixth Grade Language Arts Class! ☺ This is going to be a year full of excitement, many challenges and new experiences for you – especially in the area of technology. In fact, your learning experiences in my classroom will be enriched through the integration of a variety of Web 2.0 tools into the existing curriculum. Not only do I feel it is important to be exposed to “real world” tools, but essential 21st Century skills – such as collaboration, communication and creativity – are enhanced through the use of technology-related applications.

For example, we will be creating numerous digital projects – many of which will be developed utilizing age-appropriate online tools – Glogster (digital posters), Edmodo (blogging) and Animoto (videos) to name a few. In addition to these educational favorites, I have created a classroom wikispace (web page) that will be utilized not only to highlight student activities but to share and publish work with those beyond our classroom walls (parents, guardians, etc.) – another facet vital to learning in a 21st Century environment.

In addition to providing instruction regarding the use of several “cool tools”, you will also learn how to demonstrate qualities of a responsible digital citizen. To that end, I have developed a set of classroom guidelines to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn in a safe and secure digital environment.

Please take a moment to review the following information:

1. Students using Web 2.0 technology tools agree to utilize classroom accounts (i.e. Glogster, Animoto, etc.) to create school-related projects only.
2. Students using these tools agree not to share personal information – such as pictures, family name, user name, email address, school name, city and/or any other information that could enable someone to locate or contact them – when developing school-related projects.
3. Students using these tools agree not to change their assigned user name or password nor are they permitted to share this information with anyone besides their teachers, parents and/or guardians. In addition, logging into another student’s account is not acceptable.
4. Students using these tools are expected to treat them as classroom spaces. Speech and/or behavior that is inappropriate for class is also inappropriate when utilizing these applications – regardless of whether or not the tool is accessed during the school day. Consequences will be provided for students who use inappropriate language when utilizing a technology application.
5. Students using these tools must understand these spaces will sometimes be utilized as a vehicle for sharing thoughts and ideas. Users are encouraged to post respectful, helpful messages. If any student receives a comment that is disrespectful and/or makes him/her feel uncomfortable, notify me immediately. Do not respond to the remark.

6. Students who do not abide by these conditions and/or the Acceptable Use Policy of the Bellwood-Antis School District (see Student Handbook for additional information) will lose the opportunity to participate in technology-related projects.

Students: Please sign below indicating you have read and understand the guidelines associated with participating in technology-related projects in Ms. Forshey's classroom.

Student Signature:

Parents/Guardians: Please sign below indicating you have read and understand the guidelines associated with your student participating in technology-related projects in Ms. Forshey's classroom. Your signature also grants permission for your student's projects (some of which may include pictures, audio and/or video) to be posted to an online environment (i.e. my wikispace and/or my private educational channel on YouTube). Please note that with the exception of first names only, no additional personal information will be included when posting student activities to the Internet.

Parent/Guardian Signature:

If you have any further questions and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I am looking forward to a very exciting and rewarding year in Sixth Grade! Let's work together to make this year the best ever!

Sincerely,

Ms. Forshey ☺

Teacher/Instructional Technology Coach

Bellwood-Antis School District

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Check out my "Classroom 21" wikispace located at <http://classroom-21.wikispaces.com>. If you're really feeling adventurous, use the latest mobile technology to access this web site by scanning the QR Code shown to the left with your favorite handheld device! ☺